

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 05266 301538Z

64

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SSM-03 SAM-01 OMB-01 SCCT-01 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04

SIL-01 /088 W

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R 301423Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2488

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ELAB, LE, IS

SUBJECT: LEBANESE LABORERS TO WORK IN ISRAEL

1. AS PART OF THE OPEN BORDER POLICY WHICH IS OPERATING IN LIMITED FASHION BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SOUTHERN LEBANON (SEE TEL AVIV 5163), DEFENSE MINISTER PERES REQUESTED AND OBTAINED CABINET APPROVAL ON JULY 25 FOR HIRING ON A TEMPORARY BASIS SOME LEBANESE TO WORK IN ISRAEL DURING THE CURRENT HARVEST SEASON. FOLLOWING THE CABINET DECISION, DIRECTOR GENERAL GUREL OF THE LABOR MINISTRY VISITED BOTH JEWISH AND ARAB SETTLEMENTS IN NORTHERN ISRAEL TO DISCUSS THEIR LABOR NEEDS AND THEIR REACTION TO THE PROPOSAL. ON THE BASIS OF HIS REPORT, PERES AND LABOR MINISTER BARAM AGREED JULY 29 TO RECRUIT A GROUP OF 100 LEBANESE WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK TO WORK IN THE ORCHARDS AND FORESTS OF NORTHERN GALILEE. THEIR EMPLOYMENT WILL BE ARRANGED BY THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND THEY WILL BE PAID AT WAGE RATES SPECIFIED BY THE CURRENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 05266 301538Z

COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT FOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS. THE WORKERS

WILL BE PERMITTED TO CHANGE THE ISRAELI POUNDS THEY EARN
INTO LEBANESE CURRENCY AND/OR TO PURCHASE SUPPLIES IN
ISRAEL TO TAKE BACK ACROSS THE BORDER.

2. DESPITE THE OBVIOUS GREAT NEEDS OF THE LEBANESE
POPULATION, THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES DO NOT EXPECT A LARGE
NUMBER OF LEBANESE TO SEEK SUCH EMPLOYMENT BECAUSE OF THEIR
FEAR OF POSSIBLE TERRORIST REPRISALS AGAINST THEIR FAMILIES.
ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS, THE NUMBER OF LEBANESE PATIENTS
SEEKING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AT THE METULLA IDF DISPENSARY
HAS RECENTLY DECLINED, AND IDF SOURCES ARE QUOTED IN
THE PRESS AS ATTRIBUTING THIS TO RECENT PLO REPRISAL THREATS
TO ANYONE ACCEPTING ISRAELI HELP.
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Message Attributes

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